

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application. No claims have been canceled.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 21-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,639,582 of Shrader (“Shrader”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,525,711 of Shaw et al. (“Shaw”). Applicants do not admit that Shrader in view of Shaw is obvious under 35 USC §103(a). Furthermore, Applicants do not admit that Shrader is prior art. Nevertheless, Applicants have submitted a Declaration under 37 CFR §131, herewith, which demonstrates an earlier invention date than the effective date of Shrader. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 21-40 under 35 USC §103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome by the remarks, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the pending claims be allowed.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any fee deficiency that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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